



<http://www.google.com/imgres?imgurl=http://www.popstarsplus.com/>

THE 1950'S

1. Who is this man?
2. When did he live?
3. For what is he famous?
4. What did American think of him?
5. Where is he now?

Frank Sinatra is reported to have said....

"His kind of music is deplorable; a rancid smelling aphrodisiac....It fosters almost totally negative and destructive reactions in young people."

NAME _____

Per _____ SEAT# _____

The Eisenhower Era Begins

“Peace, Prosperity, Progress”

The election of President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1952 signaled the beginning of a postwar era that offered a return to normalcy for many Americans. After years of economic hardships and participation in World War II, Americans in the early 1950's were anxious for a period of peace and prosperity. An immensely popular World War II hero, the smiling and confident “Ike” Eisenhower seemed to be the perfect man to lead the country toward that goal. During his campaign he promised to personally go to Korea to try to end the two-year old war and to bring a technological boom to the United States. With his running mate, Senator Richard M. Nixon, the Republican Eisenhower won a landslide victory over his Democratic opponent, Adlai E. Stevenson, ending 20 years of Democratic leadership.

1950's Optimism

- The United States has survived the Depression and won the war
- The fighting men and women and their loved ones were now ready to resume their everyday lives, and they took advantage of the GI Bill to get college educations, purchase homes and start families at a rapid rate....**THE BABY BOOM!!!**
- They bought cars, moved to the suburbs and began to enjoy many of the latest technological advances that America had to offer, especially one which was to have a profound effect on the country's political and social life: **THE TELEVISION!**
- When Eisenhower was up for reelection in 1956, he again defeated Adlai Stevenson with nearly as big a landslide as the one in 1952.

Challenges to 1950's Optimism

- Eisenhower's “peace, progress, and prosperity” sounded hollow.
- Despite the success of many white, middle-class Americans, the 1950's were a decade of military buildup and social and racial inequality.
- Until a cease-fire in 1953, there was a 3-year conflict in Korea that threatened to develop into a larger war with Communist China.
- The U.S. rushed to arm itself against another Communist threat, the Soviet Union, marking the beginning of a nuclear arms race.
- Paranoia about an internal communist threat arose, reaching new heights in the McCarthy era – a period marked by wild accusations of treason, Congressional hearings and blacklists that ruined careers and personal lives.

Social Unrest

- Social progress was slow to arrive for African-Americans, even though they had made gains in attaining civil rights in the armed services in July, 1948, when then President Truman issued an Executive Order which called for equality in the armed forces. Returning home, they now found themselves in a firmly segregated society.
- Some gains were made. In 1954, the Supreme Court unanimously voted to outlaw school segregation in *Brown v. Board of Education* at Topeka. And in 1955, Rosa Parks refused to move to the back of a bus in Montgomery, Alabama. This incident triggered a series of confrontations between southern civil rights advocates and southern authorities. Yet by the decade's end, much of the South still remained segregated.
- Women also lost some of the independence and freedom they had gained as factory and office workers during World War II. Many women lost their jobs to returning veterans, and social pressure and the media focused on women's roles as housewives, with women dependent on and sometimes subservient to men.

Peace, Prosperity and Progress Matrix

Statement: *The 1950's were characterized by Peace, Prosperity and Progress.*

You will be given a picture & readings for each category below. Using the provided information, find evidence that supports and refutes the statement that the 1950's were a time of ***peace, prosperity, & progress*** for the American people.

Issue	Evidence that shows that the 1950's <u>WERE</u> a time of peace, prosperity & progress	Evidence that shows that the 1950's <u>WERE NOT</u> a time of peace, prosperity & progress
Military Buildup and Anticommunism		
Bomb Shelters and The Nuclear (mother/father/children) Family		
The "Baby Boom"		
Prefabricated Housing		

Issue	Evidence that shows that the 1950's <u>WERE</u> a time of peace, prosperity & progress	Evidence that shows that the 1950's <u>WERE</u> <u>NOT</u> a time of peace, prosperity & progress
Suburban Living		
Women's Roles		
The Rise of Television		
Elvis Presley King of Rock & Roll		